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Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDE-00 CIAE-00 EUR-12 H-01 INR-07
IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05 /087 W
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R 161444Z DEC 77
FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO ALL MBFR MISSIONS
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AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK POUCH

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 3 MBFR VIENNA 0708

FROM US REP MBFR

USSALTTWO

BELGRADE ALSO FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: SUMMARY REPORT FOR PERIOD DECEMBER
12-15, 1977.

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: THE THIRTEENTH ROUND OF THE VIENNA FORCE
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REDUCTION NEGOTIATIONS ENDED ON DECEMBER 15 WIHTOUT DEFINITIVE
EAST-WEST AGREEMENT ON PROCEDURES FOR A FURTHER EXCHANGE
OF MILITARY MANPOWER DATA. BOTH SIDES AGREED TO STUDY
DURING THE RECESS EACH OTHER'S LATEST SUGGESTIONS FOR
OVERCOMING THE PROBLEM. IN HIS DECEMBER 15 PLENARY
STATEMENT, SOVIET REP TARASOV ACCUSED THE WEST OF
UNWILLINGNESS TO COMPROMISE IN ORDER TO RESOLVE THE

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ISSUE. END SUMMARY

2. THE THIRTEENTH ROUND OF THE VIENNA FORCE REDUCTION NEGOTIATIONS ENDED DECEMBER 15 WITHOUT A FINAL RESOLUTION OF THE PROCEDURAL ISSUES BLOCKING A FURTHER EAST-WEST EXCHANGE OF MILITARY MANPOWER DATA. IN A DECEMBER 10 BILATERAL MEETING WITH US REPS, SOVIET REPS, AFTER BEING INFORMED THAT THE ORAL STATEMENT THEY HAD PROPOSED ON DECEMBER 1 AS A PRELUDE TO THE ACTUAL EXCHANGE OF ADDITIONAL DATA WAS UNACCEPTABLE TO THE WEST AS IT STOOD, ADVANCED A POSSIBLE SUBSTITUTE. THE MAJORITY OF THE AD HOC GROUP CONSIDERED THE NEW EASTERN FORMATION WAS STILL SOMEWHAT BIASED IN FAVOR OF THE EAST, ESPECIALLY IN THAT THE EAST CONTINUED TO INSIST ON REFERENCES TO THE OCTOBER 25 EASTERN DATA DISAGGREGATION PROPOSAL WITHOUT ANY COUNTERBALANCING MENTION OF WESTERN DISAGGREGATION PROPOSALS. AFTER BEING NOTIFIED BY US REPS ON DECEMBER 14 OF THE AD HOC GROUP'S JUDGMENT, SOVIET REPS SUGGESTED SOME FURTHER REVISIONS TO THE PROPOSED EASTERN TEXT.

3. US REPS PRESENTED THE NEW EASTERN TEXT TO THE AD HOC GROUP LATER ON DECEMBER 14. STILL LATER IN THE DAY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GROUP'S CONSENSUS ON HOW TO DEAL WITH THE NEW TEXT, US REPS INFORMED SOVIET REPS THAT WESTERN DELEGATIONS STILL DID NOT FIND THE REVISED

DRAFT TO BE BALANCED. US REPS ADDED THAT NONETHELESS THE PROPOSAL HAD BEEN SENT TO WESTERN AUTHORITIES FOR STUDY AND REACTION. US REPS ASKED THAT EASTERN PARTICIPANTS STUDY SEVERAL POSSIBLE WESTERN ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEM. SOVIET REPS AGREED TO THIS, BUT EMPHASIZED THAT THEY COULD NOT FORECLOSE THE POSSIBILITY THAT EASTERN TERMS FOR PROCEEDING TO EXCHANGE FURTHER DATA COULD BECOME HARDER OVER THE RECESS THAN WAS PRESENTLY THE CASE.

4. ON DECEMBER 15, THE AD HOC GROUP TRANSMITTED THE DECEMBER 14 EASTERN DATA PROPOSAL TO THE NAC ALONG WITH A REQUEST THAT THE NAC PROVIDE GUIDANCE FOR DEALING WITH IT BY THE OPENING OF THE NEXT NEGOTIATING ROUND. IN SO DOING, THE GROUP NOTED THAT, WHILE THE PROPOSED EASTERN STATEMENT OF DECEMBE 14 WAS NARROWER IN CONCEPT THAN THE EAST'S DECEMBER 1 FORMULATION IN THAT IT SOUGHT SIMPLY TO DESCRIBE THE DATA TO BE EXCHANGED, THE QUESTION REMAINED WHETHER THE CONTINUED, EXCLUSIVE REFERENCES TO THE OCTOBER 25 EASTERN PROPOSAL WOULD GIVE THE EAST ANY SUSTAINABLE ARGUMENT IN THE FUTURE AGAINST

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDE-00 CIAE-00 EUR-12 H-01 INR-07
IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05 /087 W
----------074223 162034Z /40
R 161444Z DEC 77
FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2595
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO ALL MBFR MISSIONS
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERN
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AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK POUCH

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 3 MBFR VIENNA 0708

FROM US REP MBFR

USSALTTWO

BELGRADE ALSO FOR USDEL CSCE

ANY DISAGGREGATION OF DATA BEYOND THE LEVEL CURRENTLY
CONTEMPLATED. ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE EAST DID NOT WITHDRAW
ITS DEC 14 PROPOSAL, WHICH SOVIET REPS HAD INDICATED COULD HAPPEN,
THE GROUP ADVISED THE NAC THAT, OTHER THAN ACCEPTING THE DEC 14
EASTERN TEXT UNAMENDED, OTHER POSSIBLE ACTIONS WERE EITHER TO
REPEAT A WESTERN SUGGESTION MADE IN THE DEC 14 INFORMAL SESSION
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THAT THE DATA EXCHANGE TAKE PLACE WITHOUT ANY PREAMBULAR STATEMENT
OR, SHOULD THE EAST STILL INSIST ON SUCH A STATEMENT, TO ATTEMPT
TO MODIFY THE DEC 14 EASTERN TEXT TO MAKE IT MORE BALANCED.

5. ALSO ON DEC 15, THE AD HOC GROUP APPROVED THE OUTLINE OF THE
SPEAKING NOTES TO BE USED BY US REP IN MAKING A DEC 16 END-OF-
ROUND ORAL REPORT TO THE NAC. THE APPROVED OUTLINE CITED AS
A POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT THE FACT THAT, IN CONTRAST WITH THE EASTERN
POSITIONAT THE OPENING OF THE ROUND THAT ANY DATA DISAGGREGATION
SHOULD BE LIMITED TO AN EXCHANGE OF NATIONAL MANPOWER TOTALS,
THERE WAS NOW A LARGE MEASURE OF EAST-WEST AGREEMENT ON THE
MODALITIES OF A SUBDIVISION OF DATA WHICH WOULD GO A STEP
BEYOND NATIONAL TOTALS. AT THE SAME TIME, THE APPROVED OUTLINE
WARNED OF THE RISK THAT THE EAST MIGHT BACKTRACK ON ITS POSITION
OF DEC 14 AND THAT, IN TURN, THE DATA DEADLOCK, WHICH HAD
ALREADY CONTRIBUTED TO A DELAY IN THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW
WESTERN INITIATIVE, COULD CONTINUE INDEFINITELY TO THE
DETRIMENT OF OVERALL PROGRESS IN THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS.

6. DURING THE DEC 14 INFORMAL SESSION, EASTERN AND WESTERN REPS
REVIEWED THE PAST ROUND, EACH POINTING OUT ALONG STANDARD LINES
THE DEFECTS OF THE OTHER'S POSITION. EASTERN REPS WERE PARTI-
CULARLY AGGRESSIVE IN ASSERTING THAT THERE WAS NO BASIS IN FACT
FOR THE WESTERN CONTENTION THAT THE EAST ENJOYED A LARGE
NUMERICAL SUPERIORITY IN MILITARY MANPOWER IN THE REDUCTION
AREA AND SHOULD, THEREFORE, AGREE TO THE WESTERN PROPOSAL FOR
ASYMMETRICAL MANPOWER REDUCTIONS. EASTERN AND WESTERN REPS ALSO
PRESENTED THEIR RESPECTIVE ASSESSMENTS OF THE CURRENT STATUS
OF THE DATA DISCUSSION.

7. AT THE FINAL PLENARY MEETING OF THE ROUND ON DEC 15, BOTH
US REP AND SOVIET REP TARASOV DELIVERED STATEMENTS. AT THE OUTSET
OF HIS PRESENTATION, US REP BRIEFLY NOTED THAT THE LATEST ROUND
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HAD UNFORTUNATELY NOT BROUGHT PARTICIPANTS ANY CLOSER TO AGREEMENT
ON MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES, BUT THAT NONETHELESS, CONSIDERABLE
PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE TOWARD ACHIEVING AGREED ARRANGEMENTS
FOR A FURTHER EXCHANGE OF DATA WHICH, WESTERN PARTICIPANTS
HOPED, WOULD ENABLE SUCH AN EXCHANGE TO BE CARRIED OUT IN THE
NEAR FUTURE.

8. IN HIS SHARPLY WORDED PLENARY STATEMENT, SOVIET REP SUMMED
UP THE EAST'S VIEW OF THE STATUS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AND PLACED
THE BLAME FOR THE LACK OF PROGRESS SQUARELY ON THE WEST.
IN COMMENTING AT LENGTH ON EASTAWEST EFFORTS TO PROCEED TO A
FURTHER EXCHANGE OF DATA, TARASOV ACCUSED WESTERN PARTICIPANTS
OF AN UNWILLINGNESS TO COMPROMISE AND, IN THIS REGARD, OF HAVING
TWICE REJECTED WORKING DOCUMENTS AFTER THEY HAD BEEN JOINTLY
ELABORATED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF EAST AND WEST IN AN ATTEMPT

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TO CLEAR THE WAY FOR ADDITIONAL DATA TO BE EXCHANGED. SOVIET
REP POINTEDLY CRITICIZED THE OBSTINACY OF THE WEST IN REFUSING
THE EASTERN PROPOSAL FOR AN IMMEDIATE MANPOWER FREEZE AND IN
PERSISTING WITH ITS UNPROVEN CLAIMS OF A LARGE MANPOWER DISPARITY
FAVORING THE EAST IN THE REDUCTION AREA. TARASOV'S PRESENTATION
ALSO INCLUDED AN ASSERTION THAT ANY WESTERN EFFORT TO USE TH
NEUTRON WARHEAD OR CRUISE MISSILES AS "TRUMP CARDS" TO GAIN
LEVERAGE IN THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS WOULD COME TO NO GOOD AND
COULD PRESENT POTENTIALLY INSUPERABLE OBSTACLES TO THE
ACHIEVEMENT OF THE GOALS OF THE TALKS.

9. THE SUMMARY OF THE SOVIET PLENARY PRESENTATION PRO-

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDE-00 CIAE-00 EUR-12 H-01 INR-07
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AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
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AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
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S E C R E T SECTION 3 OF 3 MBFR VIENNA 0708

FROM US REP MBFR
USSALTTWO
BELGRADE ALSO FOR USDEL CSCE
VIDED REPORTERS BY A SOVIET DELOFF AT THE DEC 15 END-OF-ROUND
PRESS CONFERENCE INCLUDED THE GIST OF TARASOV'S REMARKS ABOUT

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THE NEUTRON WARHEAD AND CRUISE MISSILES. IN HIS PREPARED
STATEMENT, GDR REP OESER, WHO PRESIDED AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE
FOR THE EAST, CITED THE FIGURES OF 987,000 AND 981,000 AS THE
RESPECTIVE OVERALL WARSAW PACT AND NATO MILITARY MANPOWER
STRENGTHS IN THE REDUCTION AREA IN SUPPORT OF THE CHARGE THAT
THE WEST WAS SEEKING TO UPSET THE EXISTING FORCE BALANCE TO ITS
UNILATERAL ADVANTAGE. IN RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS ABOUT THE STATUS
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OF THE DATA DISCUSSION, OESER STRESSED THE EAST'S REGRET
THAT, AFTER HAVING AT FIRST JUDGED THE OCT 25 EASTERN PROPOSAL
AN ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISE, WESTERN REPS HAD LATER PRESENTED
OBSTACLES TO ADVANCING THE DISCUSSION ON THE BASIS OF THAT
PROPOSAL.

10. THE FOURTEENTH ROUND OF THE VIENNA TALKS IS SCHEDULED
TO BEGIN THE WEEK OF JAN 23. THE FIRST PLENARY MEETING
WILL BE ON JAN 31.RESOR

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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